

PCT

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

NOTIFICATION CONCERNING  
SUBMISSION OR TRANSMITTAL  
OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

(PCT Administrative Instructions, Section 411)

To:

ARNAUD, Antonio, M., P.  
Rua José Bonifácio, 93 - 9th floor  
01003-901 São Paulo - SP  
Brazil

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 29 October 2003 (29.10.03)	<b>IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION</b>
Applicant's or agent's file reference MULTI-018	
International application No. PCT/BR03/00143	
International publication date (day/month/year) Not yet published	
International filing date (day/month/year) 01 October 2003 (01.10.03)	Priority date (day/month/year) 18 October 2002 (18.10.02)
Applicant MULTIBRÁS S.A. ELETRODOMÉSTICOS et al	

1. The applicant is hereby notified of the date of receipt (except where the letters "NR" appear in the right-hand column) by the International Bureau of the priority document(s) relating to the earlier application(s) indicated below. Unless otherwise indicated by an asterisk appearing next to a date of receipt, or by the letters "NR", in the right-hand column, the priority document concerned was submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b).
2. This updates and replaces any previously issued notification concerning submission or transmittal of priority documents.
3. An asterisk(\*) appearing next to a date of receipt, in the right-hand column, denotes a priority document submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau but not in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b). In such a case, the attention of the applicant is directed to Rule 17.1(c) which provides that no designated Office may disregard the priority claim concerned before giving the applicant an opportunity, upon entry into the national phase, to furnish the priority document within a time limit which is reasonable under the circumstances.
4. The letters "NR" appearing in the right-hand column denote a priority document which was not received by the International Bureau or which the applicant did not request the receiving Office to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau, as provided by Rule 17.1(a) or (b), respectively. In such a case, the attention of the applicant is directed to Rule 17.1(c) which provides that no designated Office may disregard the priority claim concerned before giving the applicant an opportunity, upon entry into the national phase, to furnish the priority document within a time limit which is reasonable under the circumstances.

<u>Priority date</u>	<u>Priority application No.</u>	<u>Country or regional Office or PCT receiving Office</u>	<u>Date of receipt of priority document</u>
18 Octo 2002 (18.10.02)	PI 0204561-3	BR	27 Octo 2003 (27.10.03)

The International Bureau of WIPO  
34, chemin des Colombettes  
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Authorized officer

ALI SOLEIMAN

Facsimile No. (41-22) 338.71.30

Telephone No. (41-22) 338 8554

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

Rec'd PCT/PTO 08 APR 2005

14 MAR 2005

From the  
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

ARNAUD, Antonio M.P.  
Rua José Bonifacio, 93  
9th Floor  
01003-901 Sao Paulo-SP  
BRESIL

## PCT

WRITTEN OPINION  
(PCT Rule 66)

Date of mailing (day/month/year)	08.03.2005
-------------------------------------	------------

Applicant's or agent's file reference  
MULTI-018

**REPLY DUE within 0 month(s) and 21 days**  
from the above date of mailing

International application No.  
PCT/BR 03/00143

International filing date (day/month/year)  
01.10.2003

Priority date (day/month/year)  
18.10.2002

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC  
F25D23/04

Applicant  
MULTIBRAS S.A. ELETRODOMESTICOS et al.

1. This written opinion is the **first** drawn up by this International Preliminary Examining Authority.
2. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:
  - I ☒ Basis of the opinion
  - II ☐ Priority
  - III ☒ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
  - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
  - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
  - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
  - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
  - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application
3. The applicant is hereby **invited to reply** to this opinion.
 

**When?** See the time limit indicated above. The applicant may, before the expiration of that time limit, request this Authority to grant an extension, see Rule 66.2(d).

**How?** By submitting a written reply, accompanied, where appropriate, by amendments, according to Rule 66.3. For the form and the language of the amendments, see Rules 66.8 and 66.9.

**Also:** For an additional opportunity to submit amendments, see Rule 66.4.  
For the examiner's obligation to consider amendments and/or arguments, see Rule 66.4 bis.  
For an informal communication with the examiner, see Rule 66.6.

**If no reply is filed**, the international preliminary examination report will be established on the basis of this opinion.
4. The final date by which the international preliminary examination report must be established according to Rule 69.2 is: 18.02.2005

Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:



European Patent Office  
D-80298 Munich  
Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d  
Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465

Authorized Officer

Zanotti, L

Formalities officer (incl. extension of time limits)  
Kjellström, H  
Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2052



**I. Basis of the opinion**

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this opinion as "originally filed"*):

**Description, Pages**

1-10 as originally filed

**Claims, Numbers**

1-19 as originally filed

**Drawings, Sheets**

1/7-7/7 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).  
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).  
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.  
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.  
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.  
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:  
☐ the claims, Nos.:  
☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This opinion has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability**

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been and will not be examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application,

☒ claims Nos. 14-19

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (specify):

☐ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☒ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. 14-19

2. A written opinion cannot be drawn due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the Standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the Standard.

☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the Standard.

**V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1, 2, 13
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

**see separate sheet**

**Re Item V**

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;  
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1. Claim 1**

- 1.1.** Document DE 196 33 973 (D1), which is considered to represent the closest state of the art, discloses an accessory arrangement for a refrigerator door, in which the accessories in the form of shelves (25). D1 discloses that the door (10) of the refrigerator has an internal wall (14) carrying retaining means (17, 18), which are identical to each other and disposed according to horizontal rows and vertical columns that are spaced from each other according to a predetermined standard, so that each retaining means can receive and retain, simply by fitting a respective engaging means (32) incorporated to one of the shelves to be removably affixed to the internal wall (11) of the door (10). The distances between the vertical columns of the retaining means and the widths of the shelves is designed so that the useful width of the internal wall can be fully occupied with multiple accessories adjacently disposed side by side, each shelf having at least one engaging means fitted in a respective retaining means (col. 4, lines 44-50).

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from the accessory arrangement of D1 only in that the arrangement further comprises accessories in the form of can holders and wire frame shelves.

However, it is well known in the art to provide this kind of accessories in a refrigerator door in order to support different products (see for example document DE 295 19 436 U, which shows wire frame shelves or EP 1 030 141, which shows a refrigerator door provided with shelves and a can holder).

Therefore, the addition of can holders and wire frame shelves in the arrangement disclosed in D1 is matter of normal design and does not involve any inventive skill.

The subject-matter of claim 1 does not therefore involve an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

- 1.2.** Furthermore, claim 1 does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT because the subject-matter for which protection is sought is not clear. Claim 1 attempts to define an accessory arrangement by reference to a refrigerator door which is not part of the claimed arrangement (cf. PCT Guidelines, PCT/GL/3 III, 4.8a). In order to remove the lack of clarity caused thereby, the claim should relate to a refrigerator door with an accessory arrangement.

**2. Claims 2 and 13**

The additional features of dependent claims 2 and 13 are also disclosed in document D1. Therefore, also the subject matter of claims 2 and 13 does not involve an inventive step for the same reasons stated above.

- 3.** Dependent claims 3-12 contain a great number of features referring to the different embodiments of certain details of the subject-matter of independent claim 1. At present, it is not foreseeable in which combination the applicant perceives an inventive concept.



The applicant is therefore invited, in his letter of reply, to give a statement of the inventive concept he is looking to protect. New claims must be drafted expressing the inventive concept and taking into account the above comments.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT  
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference MULTI-018	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/BR 03/00143	International filing date (day/month/year) 01.10.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 18.10.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC F25D23/04		
Applicant MULTIBRAS S.A. ELETRODOMESTICOS et al.		

- This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
- This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.  
  
☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).  
  
These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

- This report contains indications relating to the following items:
  - I ☒ Basis of the opinion
  - II ☐ Priority
  - III ☒ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
  - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
  - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
  - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
  - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
  - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand  15.04.2004	Date of completion of this report  14.04.2005
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:   European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer  Zanotti, L  Telephone No. +49 89 2399-8486  

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/BR 03/00143**

**I. Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

**Description, Pages**

1-10 as originally filed

**Claims, Numbers**

1-19 as originally filed

**Drawings, Sheets**

1/7-7/7 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).  
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).  
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.  
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.  
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.  
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:  
☐ the claims, Nos.:  
☐ the drawings, sheets:



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/BR 03/00143

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability**

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application,

☒ claims Nos. 14-19

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (specify):

☐ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☒ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. 14-19

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the Standard.

☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the Standard.

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-13
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	3-12
	No: Claims	1, 2, 13
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-13
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

**see separate sheet**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/BR 03/00143

**Re Item V**

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;  
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1. Claim 1**

- 1.1.** Document DE 196 33 973 (D1), which is considered to represent the closest state of the art, discloses an accessory arrangement for a refrigerator door, in which the accessories in the form of shelves (25). D1 discloses that the door (10) of the refrigerator has an internal wall (14) carrying retaining means (17, 18), which are identical to each other and disposed according to horizontal rows and vertical columns that are spaced from each other according to a predetermined standard, so that each retaining means can receive and retain, simply by fitting a respective engaging means (32) incorporated to one of the shelves to be removably affixed to the internal wall (11) of the door (10). The distances between the vertical columns of the retaining means and the widths of the shelves is designed so that the useful width of the internal wall can be fully occupied with multiple accessories adjacently disposed side by side, each shelf having at least one engaging means fitted in a respective retaining means (col. 4, lines 44-50).

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from the accessory arrangement of D1 only in that the arrangement further comprises accessories in the form of can holders and wire frame shelves.

However, it is well known in the art to provide this kind of accessories in a refrigerator door in order to support different products (see for example document DE 295 19 436 U, which shows wire frame shelves or EP 1 030 141, which shows a refrigerator door provided with shelves and a can holder).

Therefore, the addition of can holders and wire frame shelves in the arrangement disclosed in D1 is matter of normal design and does not involve any inventive skill.

The subject-matter of claim 1 does not therefore involve an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

---

International application No. PCT/BR 03/00143

1.2. Furthermore, claim 1 does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT because the subject-matter for which protection is sought is not clear. Claim 1 attempts to define an accessory arrangement by reference to a refrigerator door which is not part of the claimed arrangement (cf. PCT Guidelines, PCT/GL/3 III, 4.8a). In order to remove the lack of clarity caused thereby, the claim should relate to a refrigerator door with an accessory arrangement.

**2. Claims 2 and 13**

The additional features of dependent claims 2 and 13 are also disclosed in document D1. Therefore, also the subject matter of claims 2 and 13 does not involve an inventive step for the same reasons stated above.

**3. Claims 3-12**

Dependent claims 3-12 contain features referring to the different embodiments of certain details of the subject-matter of independent claim 1. These features appear to be neither shown nor suggested by the available prior art documents.

Therefore, the subject-matter of claims 3-12 would appear to meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and inventive step.

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
29 April 2004 (29.04.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/036130 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **F25D 23/04**

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/BR2003/000143

(22) International Filing Date: 1 October 2003 (01.10.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
PI 0204561-3 18 October 2002 (18.10.2002) BR

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **MULTI-BRÁS S.A. ELETRDOMÉSTICOS** [BR/BR]; Avenida das Nações Unidas, 12995, 32º andar, 04578-000 São Paulo - SP (BR).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **CAVALCANTI, Anna, Luiza, Moraes de Sá** [BR/BR]; Rua Alceu Koehn-topp, 901, 89217-070 Joinville - SC (BR). **BARROS,**

**Tammy, Monteiro, Del Arco** [BR/BR]; Rua Paraná, 399 - apt. 806, 89202-160 Joinville - SC (BR). **PIETRUZA, Antônio, Jorge** [BR/BR]; Rua Aracajú, 1783 - apt. 603, 89204-450 Joinville - SC (BR). **FLOETER JÚNIOR, Rodolfo** [BR/BR]; Rua Campo Alegre, 350, 89201-810 Joinville - SC (BR).

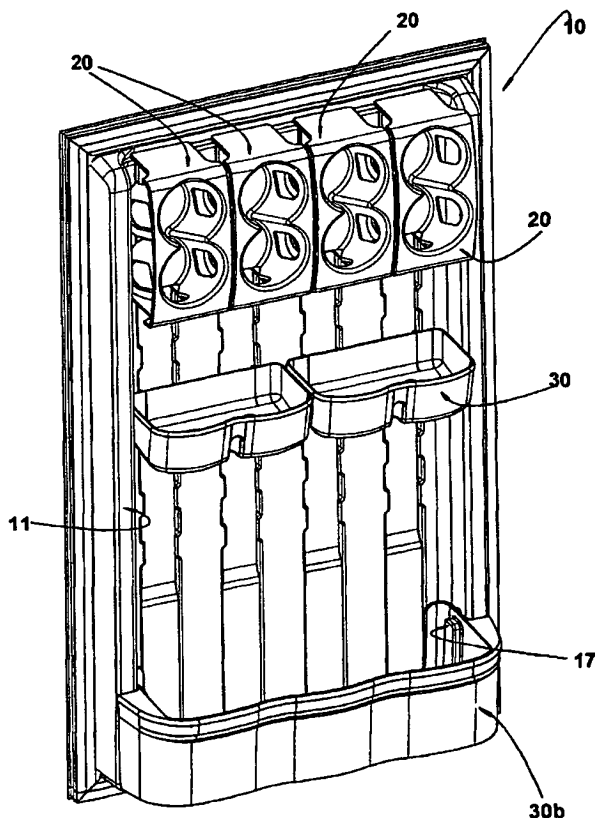
(74) Agents: **ARNAUD, Antonio, M., P. et al.**; Rua José Bonifácio, 93 - 9th floor, 01003-901 São Paulo - SP (BR).

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ACCESSORY ARRANGEMENT FOR A REFRIGERATOR DOOR AND CAN HOLDER FOR A REFRIGERATOR



(57) Abstract: An accessory arrangement for a refrigerator door, said accessories being in the form of can holders (20), median shelves (30), wire frame shelves (30a), and other means for supporting the products to be refrigerated, said door (10) of the refrigerator having an internal wall (11) carrying retaining means (12), which are identical to each other and disposed according to horizontal rows and vertical columns, each retaining means (12) being able to receive and retain, simply by fitting a respective engaging means (40) incorporated to one of said accessories to be removably affixed to the internal wall (11) of the door (10). The distances between the vertical columns of the retaining means (12) and the widths of the accessories are designed so that the useful width of said internal wall (11) is fully occupied with multiple accessories adjacently disposed side by side.

WO 2004/036130 A1



European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

**Published:**

— *with international search report*

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/BR 03/00143

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 F25D23/04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 F25D A47F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EP0-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 196 33 973 A (BOSCH SIEMENS HAUSGERAETE) 26 February 1998 (1998-02-26) column 3, line 6 - column 3, line 38 column 4, line 44 - column 4, line 50; figure 1	1,2
X	DE 295 19 436 U (AEG HAUSGERAETE GMBH) 3 April 1997 (1997-04-03) page 2, paragraph 5 - page 3, paragraph 2; figure 1	1,2
X	EP 0 918 200 A (BOSCH SIEMENS HAUSGERAETE) 26 May 1999 (1999-05-26) column 3, line 58 - column 4, line 24 column 5, line 27 - column 5, line 43; figure 2	1
A		4
	----- -/--	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

### \* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

1 December 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

26. 03. 2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Zanotti, L

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/BR 03/00143

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 707 184 A (AEG HAUSGERÄTE GMBH) 17 April 1996 (1996-04-17) column 4, line 3 - column 4, line 36; figure 3 -----	1
P,A	WO 03/072894 A (RUBBERMAID INC) 4 September 2003 (2003-09-04) page 13, line 30 - page 16, line 12; figures 1,2,14 -----	5-7
A	EP 1 030 141 A (WHIRLPOOL CO) 23 August 2000 (2000-08-23) the whole document -----	8
A	WO 98/08036 A (BOSCH SIEMENS HAUSGERÄTE) 26 February 1998 (1998-02-26) -----	

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/BR 03/00143

## Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-13

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.



**FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210**

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-13

---

2. claims: 14-19

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/BR 03/00143

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 19633973	A	26-02-1998	DE 19633973 A1	26-02-1998
			DE 59609925 D1	09-01-2003
			DK 856138 T3	24-02-2003
			WO 9808036 A1	26-02-1998
			WO 9808037 A1	26-02-1998
			EP 0856138 A1	05-08-1998
			EP 0856139 A1	05-08-1998
			ES 2187673 T3	16-06-2003
DE 29519436	U	03-04-1997	DE 29519436 U1	03-04-1997
EP 0918200	A	26-05-1999	DE 19751769 A1	27-05-1999
			EP 0918200 A2	26-05-1999
EP 0707184	A	17-04-1996	DE 4436736 A1	18-04-1996
			DE 59507381 D1	13-01-2000
			EP 0707184 A2	17-04-1996
WO 03072894	A	04-09-2003	US 2002170242 A1	21-11-2002
			US 2002174532 A1	28-11-2002
			WO 03072956 A2	04-09-2003
			WO 03072894 A1	04-09-2003
EP 1030141	A	23-08-2000	IT M1990098 U1	21-08-2000
			EP 1030141 A2	23-08-2000
WO 9808036	A	26-02-1998	DE 19633972 A1	26-02-1998
			DE 19633973 A1	26-02-1998
			DE 19633975 A1	26-02-1998
			DE 19633976 A1	26-02-1998
			DE 19633978 A1	26-02-1998
			DE 59609925 D1	09-01-2003
			DK 856138 T3	24-02-2003
			WO 9808036 A1	26-02-1998
			WO 9808037 A1	26-02-1998
			EP 0856138 A1	05-08-1998
			EP 0856139 A1	05-08-1998
			ES 2187673 T3	16-06-2003

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/BR 03/00143

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
IPC 7 F25D23/04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 F25D A47F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 196 33 973 A (BOSCH SIEMENS HAUSGERAETE) 26 February 1998 (1998-02-26) column 3, line 6 - column 3, line 38 column 4, line 44 - column 4, line 50; figure 1	1,2
X	DE 295 19 436 U (AEG HAUSGERAETE GMBH) 3 April 1997 (1997-04-03) page 2, paragraph 5 - page 3, paragraph 2; figure 1	1,2
X	EP 0 918 200 A (BOSCH SIEMENS HAUSGERAETE) 26 May 1999 (1999-05-26) column 3, line 58 - column 4, line 24 column 5, line 27 - column 5, line 43; figure 2	1
A		4
	----- -/-- -----	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&amp;" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

1 December 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

26. 03. 2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Zanotti, L

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/BR 03/00143

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 707 184 A (AEG HAUSGERAETE GMBH) 17 April 1996 (1996-04-17) column 4, line 3 - column 4, line 36; figure 3 -----	1
P,A	WO 03/072894 A (RUBBERMAID INC) 4 September 2003 (2003-09-04) page 13, line 30 - page 16, line 12; figures 1,2,14 -----	5-7
A	EP 1 030 141 A (WHIRLPOOL CO) 23 August 2000 (2000-08-23) the whole document -----	8
A	WO 98/08036 A (BOSCH SIEMENS HAUSGERAETE) 26 February 1998 (1998-02-26) -----	

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning  
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

**BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES**

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☐ BLACK BORDERS
- ☐ IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- ☒ FADED TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☒ BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☒ SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- ☐ COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS
- ☐ GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS
- ☒ LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
- ☐ REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY
- ☐ OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

**IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.**

**As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.**